



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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September 18, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

STATUS REPORT ON BOARD MOTION TO SUPPORT IN CONCEPT AB 12, CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

This is to provide your Board with a second report on AB 12 (Bass and Beall) which would enact the State option to use Federal Title IV-E funds to extend Foster Care and the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP) to eligible youth up to 21 years of age as provided under H.R. 6893, the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

On March 17, 2009, your Board approved a motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to support AB 12 in concept and report back in 30 days with an analysis of the bill and its impact to the County. On March 31, 2009, this office provided your Board with an interim report on AB 12 pending a comprehensive review and analysis of extensive amendments to the bill by DCFS, Probation, and County Counsel. This report includes a status of the bill and its potential impact to the County.

AB 12 would allow access to Federal funding to expand Foster Care and Kin-GAP services to youth up to 21 years of age. The State and the County would be required to provide matching funds for the expanded services. However, enactment of AB 12 faces significant hurdles due to costs associated with the bill and the State's ongoing fiscal crisis. According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee's analysis of AB 12, the expansion of foster care services would result in increased State General Fund costs ranging from \$30 million to

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\$40 million in FY 2010-11 and up to \$100 million in FY 2013-14. The committee analysis also estimated that the Kin-GAP expansion would result in \$83 million increased State General Funds costs.

Due to these projected State costs, in May 2009, the Assembly Speaker's Office decided to hold AB 12 on the Assembly Appropriations suspense file, and to take no action on the bill this year. At that time, Speaker Karen Bass indicated that AB 12 would remain a priority and stated her intent to take up the bill again in early 2010.

On July 28, 2009, the Governor signed the FY 2009-10 Revised State Budget Act to resolve an estimated \$24 billion deficit, which combined with the \$36 billion in solutions enacted in February, has resulted in over \$60 billion in budget solutions this year. When the Governor signed the revised budget, he vetoed \$80 million in statewide funding for Child Welfare Administration, including \$19 million for the Title IV-E Capped Allocation Waiver. This has further precluded the Legislature from considering any expansion of Foster Care and Kin-GAP services this year.

According to the DCFS, most youth exiting the child welfare system are ill-equipped educationally, vocationally, or emotionally to move into adulthood. AB 12 would provide services and support to help non-minor dependents successfully make this transition; however, as currently amended AB 12 would result in higher Foster Care and Kin-GAP caseloads and increased net County cost.

This office will continue to work with the Sacramento advocates, DCFS, County Counsel and other affected County departments to develop amendments to AB 12 that will increase County flexibility to administer these programs and to maximize available funding consistent with existing Board policy to seek authority to implement provisions of H.R. 6893 outside of Title IV-E Capped Allocation Waiver, to support proposals that maximize Federal revenue, simplify foster care, and streamline Dependency Court procedures.

We will continue to monitor and advocate for passage of AB 12 and will keep your Board apprised of the status of this measure via Sacramento Updates.

We will continue to keep you informed.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:sb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services